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SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Are these houses allotted by the Rent Controller or do owners of the houses have freedom to give them to whomsoever they like?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The usual law will apply to that, that is, the first letting will be by themselves; thereafter it wil be by the Accommodation Controller.

State Housing Board

* 37 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a retired I.A.S. Officer has been re-employed as Chairman of the Madras State Housing Board; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) Yes Sir.

(*b*) The officer was re-employed in view of his past experience in the fields of Local Administration and Housing and with a view to complete expeditiously the items of work already taken up.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Is there no other officer now serving the Government to serve in that post?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : In our opinion, the officer is very competent and his services were required.

Drugs

* 38 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state the procedure adopted for the procurement of drugs for the Government hospitals and dispensaries?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : The requirements of drugs, except antibiotics, sera and vaccines and quinine for the Government hospitals and dispensaries are obtained on indent from the Medical Stores Depot, Madras. Antibiotics, sera and vaccines and quinine are obtained from Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., Pimpri, the King Institute, Guindy, and the Central Jail, Coimbatore, respectively. Such of the drugs as could not be supplied immediately by the Medical Stores Depot, etc., are locally purchased under proper sanction after calling for competitive quotations in the open market.

Medical Officers

* 39 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any medical officers in Government service have taken a second spouse while the first spouse is alive; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against them?

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THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: (a) Three medical officers are reported to have taken second spouses while the first one was alive and one Woman Medical Officer married a person who had a wife living.

(b) Action was proposed to be taken against the Woman Assistant Surgeon for contracting a bigamous marriage. She however obtained an annulment order from the Court and further action against her was dropped. Under the rules, no action could be taken against the other three officers, who took second spouses several years ago.

Government hospital at Kancheepuram

*40 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representation has been received recently by the Government about the maladministration of the Government Hospital at Kancheepuram; and, if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon;

(b) whether it is a fact that the medical officers do not attend the hospital at stated hours according to standing orders of the hospital; and

(c) whether any representation about the non-availability of materials for treatment and nursing in the hospital has been received by the Government and, if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: (a) Yes. The staff concerned including the Medical Officer in charge of the hopsital have already been transferred from the institution.

(b) Some of the medical officers, who were not previously attending the hospital in time, were warned to be punctual in their attendance. They are now attending the hospital regularly as per the hospital standing orders.

(c) No.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR: Is there any time fixed for attending the hospital with respect to the Honorary Surgeons?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: There is no time fixed. They have special days for admission and they are supposed to be early in the morning by 7-30 on those days and on other days they come after 10 o' clock.

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR: Will the Hon. Minister visit the General Hospital and other hospitals?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: I read the hon. Member's speech yesterday and I would like to tell him that almost every other week I visit the hospital.

திரு. ஏ. கே. தங்கவேல் முதலியார்: நிர்வாகத்தில் ஒழுங்கீனம் என்று சொல்கிறார்களே அது என்ன ஒழுங்கீனம் என்று தெரியவில்லை. அதை விளக்கவேண்டும்.